

INSIGHT

Volume 7 Number 2

August 2009

World Economies Crash

U.S. to Take Central Bank
Emergency Loan Effectively Gives Historic Money Cop 10 Days

Higher ed prepares to cut \$600 million
State to begin tracking MRSA



Will take...

1,064 homes

\$158 billion

STATE OF GEORGIA

27,000 each

gain stop play on Centre Court

economy worsens

Our freedoms hurt

THE INDEPENDENT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 2008

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Food stamps are the symbol of poverty in the U.S. In the era of the credit crunch, a record 25 million Americans are now relying on them to survive—a



Financial crisis

Crash of

Unemployment



The New York Times

death attention makers

Oregon loses 21,700 jobs in February

Oregon seniors

Oregon's chief economist couldn't comment about the he was away from his office on an unpaid furlough

International Congregation of Yahweh



INSIGHT

Volume 7 Number 2

August 2009

A MAGAZINE OF BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

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WHAT ARE THE REAL 20
**CAUSES OF THE
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ECONOMIC WOES?**

Insight is published by the International Congregation of Yahweh in Pocahontas, Arkansas.

ICY is a nonprofit, religious organization dedicated to the restoration of the original doctrines of the Apostolic assembly. ICY follows the practice of the New Testament assemblies who kept the Law of the Old Testament. The true assembly is built on the foundation of the apostles' and the prophets' (Eph. 2:20) message of obedience to Yahweh's Law (Isa. 8:20; Jer. 26:4-6; Ezk. 20:19).

Our major doctrines include the name of the Creator, Yahweh, and His Son, Yahshua. Only these names are to be used in worship rather than such names as Jesus, God, Lord, Jehovah, etc. Ample Scriptural and historical evidence support this belief; not the least of which is the commandment against taking the name of Yahweh in vain (Ex. 20:7).

ICY also teaches the restored truth that the weekly seventh-day Sabbath is from dawn-to-dark. It is NOT from sunset-to-sunset as commonly taught. Yahweh's true Holy Days and New Moons are to be observed as well. Another major fundamental belief is the atoning sacrifice of the Messiah Yahshua.

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SWINE FLU:

From the Editor: *Gary C. Miller*

As real estate losses reach near record levels, the specter of a looming flu pandemic threatens to add to the woes of nation after nation already reeling from colossal debt and bankruptcy. The toll in human misery continues to mount. Where are we headed? And why?

On April 29, 2009 the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) raised the alert to the second highest level for the novel influenza, a type A (H1N1 subtype), or swine flu, and on June 11, 2009 was declared a pandemic by the WHO (World Health Organization) by raising the alert to the highest level 6. Early on the WHO confirmed human cases of swine flu (the H1N1 virus subtype) in Mexico, the United States, Canada, Britain, Israel, New Zealand and Spain. That list has grown to 70 countries. A declared pandemic does not indicate severity (death rate or toll), but that it is widespread. As of July 10, 2009, the CDC reported the U.S. leads the world with 37,246 new cases (up from 279 in May) and 211 deaths. Wisconsin to date had the most, 6,031.

Mexico's health officials say it is not known for sure the flu started there. However, the general consensus of U.S. health authorities and others is that it did in fact start in Mexico (WHO July 6, 2009 figures: 10,262 cases, 119 deaths). The worldwide total of 99,103 cases and 476 deaths was reported July 6, 2009 (WHO update number 58).

We should keep in mind, however, about 30,000 die each year during the "normal" influenza season in the fall of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The Southern Hemisphere is already in its normal fall influenza season.

Ninety-one years ago the horrendous influenza of 1918 (so-called Spanish Flu) started in March, peaked in October (195,000 deaths in the U.S. that month alone), taking a toll of 600,000 dead in the US and an estimated 40 to 50 million worldwide! The US toll was more than deaths from WWI and WWII combined.

By early November of that year, it mysteriously all but disappeared as suddenly as it began. Medical researchers still do not know why, but some feel the scourge simply ran out of fuel; that it exhausted the supply of susceptible hosts.

Dr. Jeffery Taubenberger, a pathologist at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C., reported in 1998 regarding research done on the 1918 influenza, that "*The one thing we can say is that this is definitively an influenza virus, a type A influenza virus of the subtype H1/N1*" (PBS video, *Influenza 1918*, additional interview, pbs.org). As noted earlier, this is the same virus subtype presently spreading from Mexico.

He further explained, "...It was clear that there were outbreaks in both humans and pigs *almost simultaneously* [my emphasis]... Our work also seems to confirm that the hemagglutinin sequence looks more like the 1930's swine hemagglutinin sequences than it does the human hemagglutinin sequences of the 30's. So there seems to be evidence that there's some relationship to the classic swine flu..."

"*And the swine...of their flesh shall you not eat, and their carcass shall you not touch; they are unclean to you*" (Lev. 11:7).

Historical records dating back to the 1700's show that an in-

"And the swine...of their flesh shall you not eat, and their carcass shall you not touch; they are unclean to you" (Leviticus 11:7).

fluenza pandemic occurs about every 10-30 years. In the twentieth century there were pandemics in 1918, 1957 and 1968. The statistics suggest we are overdue for one.

The great influenza of 1918 occurred in the 42nd year of the Jubilee cycle, the 7th year of the septenary cycle. This was a land Sabbath year in which the land was to rest, uncultivated. The weekly and annual Sabbaths too demanded cessation of normal working activities including working the land. Man refused once again to comply, and nature acted decisively, brutally paralyzing this nation and countries around the world. Several long overdue debts were collected. In the US, the nation essentially came to rest as factories closed, public gatherings were outlawed, schools closed, businesses locked their doors, crops failed; a virtual standstill...except for the WWI war effort. Call-ups *continued* mobilizing masses of young virile troops. Nature answered by striking troops by the tens of thousands, slowing the surge here and abroad.

Religion had its take on the situation in those days as evangelist Billy Sunday preached that we could "pray our way out of the plague." While he preached, people in the audience collapsed from the flu.

Religion generally, not understanding that Biblical laws are *NATURAL LAWS*, sends the wrong message. The right message is that the natural laws of rest for the land and abstaining from eating or touching swine carcasses cannot be violated without serious consequences. The US and other nations globally rested whether they wanted to or not. Hundreds of thousands here and millions worldwide rested and desisted from contaminating themselves with pork...permanently.

The mysterious virtual disappearance of the plague by early November, shortly after the land Sabbath ended October 26, 1918, is not so mysterious when we realize the land Sabbath was completed. The rest was over. Nature had exacted its toll of retribution for "breaking" its laws, and now it was time to move on.

Based on patterns of the past, it appears unlikely this round of a disease pandemic will be the colossus of 1918. This year (2008-2009 fall-to-fall) is the third year of a seven-year cycle and 31st year of the fifty-year Jubilee cycle. But give us another four years, 2012 to 2013, October-to-October, while we continue farming hogs, consuming pork by the ton, opening our borders to any and everyone, and breaking another year-long land Sabbath, then we may see an ominous pathogen once again: "But...if you will not obey Yahweh...to observe to do all His commandments and statutes...that...Yahweh will smite you with the boils of Egypt and tumors...*from which you cannot be healed*" (Deut. 28:15, 27). Medical science cannot override natural law. No one can.

There is a way out, however, an escape route Yahweh has provided that comes by obedience to His great inexorable Law. There is hope and freedom ahead if we make the right choices: "...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life" (Deut. 30:19).— **ICY** ★★★★★★

PENTECOST

is on the First Day of the Week

Pentecost is an elusive Holy Day for many earnestly seeking the truths of Yahweh. Searching publications near and far they find a bewildering maze of Pentecost beliefs and differing dates for its observance. Can all these be right? Or is Pentecost perhaps a “personalized” Holy Day each can tailor to his location as the wheat harvest occurs in their area? Maybe it does not really matter all that much? Maybe Yahweh is just testing us to see if we can get along with others who see it differently. No, on all counts.

Yahweh is orderly and consistent. He is not the author of confusion. This great Majestic Being in whom resides all wisdom and power has set His lights in the heavens to be for “...signs and Festivals...” (Gen. 1:14), to show His will for the true Scriptural Holy Days. He ordained these times before Adam was created. They are His Holy Times, not man’s. So why all the divergent views about these special observances? Does Yahweh have trouble making up His mind on something as vital as this?

There is a sure guide, a beacon in the darkness of religious confusion to show the way: “They have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them” (Luke 16:29). We must hear Moses; see what the Bible says.

Briefly we will look at one aspect of this Holy Day, the day of the week on which Pentecost occurs. This has come under intense questioning in recent years. But questioning is good for we are instructed to “prove all things” (I Thes. 5:21).

The Day After the Sabbath

Finding the day of the week on which Pentecost falls, centers in part, around the word translated “the day after” in Leviticus 23:11: “And he [the priest] shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh [“the LORD,” *KJV*], to be accepted for you on *the morrow after* the sabbath the priest shall wave it” (*KJV*). The word translated “the morrow after” here is the Hebrew *machroath* (SEC 4283), and is likewise translated in vv. 15-16 in the *KJV*.⁽¹⁾

However, *The Interlinear Bible* [Green’s; also *Young’s Literal (YL)*] translates *mimachroath* in verse 11: “...on **the morrow of**...” This makes it appear the morrow IS the Sabbath and the day of the wavesheaf offering. The preposition translated “on” here is the prefixed preposition “mi,” attached to *machroath* [*mi-machroath*], actually meaning “from or out.”

But in verse 15 both *TIB* and *YL* translate

mimachroath “from **the day after**.” In verse 16 *TIB* translates it “the day after.”

So what are we to make of these divergent translations?

For further advice, we turn to lexicons. For typical cases such as the verses in question, Leviticus 23:11, 15-16, and other places such as Numbers 33:3, Joshua 5:11, etc., the *Analytical and Hebrew and Chaldean Lexicon*, Davidson, p. 481, gives the meaning of *mimachroath* as, “...*the day after* (*mimachroath*)...” And also says, “*machroath* [without the preposition, “mi”] adv. *the day after*, I Sam. 30:17.”

The BDB Lexicon says for *machroath*: “**n.f. the morrow** (the day following a *past* day)...”⁽²⁾ And for the specific verses in question: “...*mimachroath hashabbath* on the morrow of [= *after*] the sabbath...” (Lev. 23:11, 15-16). Notice BDB specifically indicates “*after*,” in brackets, to make the meaning clear.

Gesenius gives for these verses Lev. 23:11, 15-16: “... *mimachroath hashabbath* the day after the sabbath...”⁽³⁾

The weight of scholars’ research shows *machroath* (SEC 4283) means “the day after” and *mimachroath* also given as “the day after” or “from the day after.”

Using their views, the wavesheaf offering is presented *the day AFTER* the Sabbath, and the fifty days to Pentecost ends the *day after* the seventh Sabbath (Lev. 23:16).

A Key Verse Verifies Scholars’ Views

The Bible, however, provides further conclusive evidence for this definition in Numbers 33:3 (“the day after” or “the morrow after”). Notice how this verse is translated in *TIB*: “...on the fifteenth day of the month first, on the day after [*mimachroath*] the Passover went out the sons of Israel with a high hand...” (see also *YL*, *Tanakh*, *RSV*, etc.).

What does this verse tell us? We know by other Scriptures using the correct Biblical definition of “day” [light period from dawn-to-dark] that the Passover was killed the 14th day of Abib, *between the evenings* (Ex. 12:6). Roasting continued during the 12th and final hour of the day, and it was eaten the night following the fourteenth day (Ex. 12:6, 8).

Now since Passover is the 14th of the first month (Num. 28:16), the day after the Passover must be the 15th of the first month, exactly as Numbers 33:3 says. Yahweh uses *mimachroath* to show this irrefutable fact.

Furthermore, it should be obvious that the use of the

term “morrow” in Leviticus 23:11, 15-16; *KJV, RSV*, etc.) indicates the day after the Sabbath rather than the Sabbath itself. Otherwise, Yahweh, knowing the Sabbath day is the period of light only, would simply have said, “...on the sabbath the priest shall wave it” (v. 11); which, of course, He did not.

Using all this evidence we can correctly translate Leviticus 23:11: “And he shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh...on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.”

Yahweh goes even further, following with verse 15, emphasizing again the day after the Sabbath for the wave offering.



As shown in Deuteronomy 16:1, Passover is observed two weeks after the new moon of green ears. At harvest time is when the wavesheaf is offered. *ipcm.wise.edu; uark.edu*

Correct Sabbath Shows a Sunday Pentecost

Next, we have to know *which Sabbath* Yahweh refers to when he says the wave sheaf is to be waved on the next day after the Sabbath. Is this a weekly Sabbath or an annual Sabbath which, as commonly believed, occurs during the days of unleavened bread?

This matter has been debated for centuries. The “...Boethusians and the Sadducees in the time of the second temple, and the Karaites since the 8th century of the Christian era, have taken “Sabbath” in the sense of the seventh day of the week...which happen[ed] to fall within the seven days of the Passover.”⁽⁴⁾ On the other hand, “...it is evident that the Jews...during the second temple kept Pentecost fifty days after the 16th of Nisan...”⁽⁵⁾

The basic error both these opposing groups make is that they assume the wave sheaf must be offered during the seven-day Passover Feast. But there is *not a single verse of Scripture to support that assumption*; surprising as that might be!

The Bible clearly tells us, “...when you enter the land...and reap the harvest, THEN you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest and he shall wave the sheaf...on the morrow after the Sabbath...” (Lev. 23:10-11).

Where does this verse-or any other verse-say or imply that this sheaf must be waved during the days of unleavened bread? It is simply *not there!*

What Yahweh does say is that when you reap the harvest THEN the wave sheaf is waved. He says nothing whatsoever about the days of unleavened bread in connection with the wavesheaf! And when is the harvest reaped? Let Yahshua answer:

“For the earth brings forth fruit...first the blade, then the ear, [could only be green ears] after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is ripe...he puts in the sickle, because the harvest is come” (Mark 4:28-29).

Notice two stages *after* green ears the grain is ripe (SEC 3583: “dry, dry up, wither,” Rev. 14:15; Ardent-Ging, p. 550) and ready to harvest.

Now when is Passover? “Celebrate the new moon of Abib (green ears), and keep the Passover...For in the month of Abib (green ears) Yahweh...brought you forth out of Egypt...” (Deut. 16:1). Passover is kept two weeks after the new moon of green ears. It occurs during the time of green ears as this verse shows. The harvest, however, *follows weeks after green ears first appear.*

The Bible clearly says the wave sheaf offering is given only after the harvest starts; which Yahshua shows is long after the time of green ears during which the Passover is usually observed. The wave sheaf, therefore, has nothing to do with Passover, but everything to do with the harvest!

The wave sheaf is made at harvest time when the grain is “...white for harvest” (John 4:35), not green with only a ripe grain here and there.

Consequently, the wave sheaf is offered on the day, the morrow, after the **weekly Sabbath** WHENEVER the grain is ripe regardless when that occurs. The days of unleavened bread have nothing to do with it. That is, the priest must wave the sheaf on the first day of the week, a Sunday. *These are the clear irrefutable facts of Scripture.*

Now, from wave-sheaf Sunday, plus seven Sabbaths to the day after the seventh Sabbath (v.16) gives the 50-day count as specified in Scripture. The word in Leviticus 23:16 is “Sabbaths” [SEC 7676: the seventh day rest: the Sabbath] *not weeks* (SEC 7620: “period of seven...heptad, **week...**”(BDB; p. 988), as in Num. 28:26; Deut. 16:10).

This places Pentecost on the first day of the week.

Day-for-a-Year Principle Also Shows a Sunday Pentecost

Further evidence of a Sunday Pentecost is found using the important day-for-a-year principle found in Numbers 14:34: “After the number of days in which you searched out the land, forty days, each day for a year...even forty years...”

This well-known principle provides enormous leverage in understanding various matters of Scripture, as well as prophecy. For over thirty years we have taught that applying this principle shows the 50 days of the

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Our readers write



Does an unmarried woman with no children have any obligation to leave an inheritance to a family member (siblings, cousin, nephew, etc.)?

By the Law, Yahweh has no stipulations on any inheritance accumulated by an unmarried woman with no children. The inheritance comes only through the father of the family (Num. 27:1-11; Deut. 21:16-17). Notice the account in Numbers strictly relates to daughters obtaining an inheritance from their father: "...shalt cause the inheritance of their father to pass unto them" (Num. 27:7).

So, scripturally, a single woman with no children has no obligations to any family members whatever regarding an inheritance. Any inheritance those family members might have received could have come only from their father. If he somehow did not follow through on inheritances, then father and family suffer. But an unmarried woman with no children is under no obligation to "pick up the slack" to try to mend the father's mistakes in that situation. Any mistakes made on inheritance at the death of the father cannot be undone, and she is under no obligation to try to do so using her accumulated wealth. ■

Insight is always interesting to read, but you have not convinced me of there being twice 144,000. Yahshua has one bride and ONE only, therefore there cannot be two brides."

As to your not being convinced of the fact of the 288,000, I am not surprised nor frustrated by that. In the Insight article, it has been proven with the certainty of a mathematical theorem. If you choose not to accept the proof, that in no way alters it. It is often very difficult to convince someone of a true conclusion however thoroughly it is proven. This is because most all do not know how to prove something or are unable to recognize a proof when they encounter it. My task is not to convince you, but to prove it. Ac-

ceptance or rejection of the proof is entirely up to the individual. I have found over and over again that proof to anyone is entirely a matter of what they are willing to believe or accept. What one believes or accepts does not prove anything regarding the truth of a matter. It merely shows what choice/s they have decided to make. It would be great if the truth were its own persuader, but that is, sadly, not at all the reality. You choose to cling to a "one bride" phrase as you perceive what that means, as if that answers all or any other Biblical facts which might modify or further define what "one bride" really means. Again that is your choice. Everyone is free to choose, a freedom not to be denied for sure, but people...especially in religion, usually confuse freedom of choice with truth or actual proof. *Spain*

What is ICY's feeling on the Protestants blanket statement, "when it's your time to go home, it's your time?"

ICY does not teach the "time to go home" Protestant theory that regardless of how you live, when your time comes, time is up...you die. They have a related theory that "there are no second causes in a Christian's life" (i.e. "God" directs your every move). Both these theories virtually exclude cause-and-effect from their religion. Natural Laws have nothing to do with it. Consequently, the fact that one eats predominately foodless foods, never exercises never fasts, smokes, drinks to excess, burns-the-candle-at-both-ends, has sleep deprivation, and leads a "couch-potato" existence, all have nothing to do with lifespan! How long one lives is supposedly "ordained by God." How conveniently irresponsible! No changes are required. In such a make-believe world there are no consequences for choices the individual makes. Things just happen, not because deeds have consequences, but "for some higher purpose." In that worldview, we are not responsible for our actions when bad things sometimes happen.

However, we believe the opposite is the case, that we are not punished FOR our bad habits, but BY our bad habits. We are free to make whatever choices we like, but their consequences are preordained-set by Natural Laws. Ohio

Where is the best place to purchase meat at a grocery store or a private party?

We do not make a special effort to trace our sources of the meat we buy. I realize hormones are often a concern and some people who have contacted us will only buy Kosher meats. When Paul referred to whatsoever is sold in the shambles [meat market] eat, asking no question for conscience sake...(I Cor. 10:25), he was referring to meat sacrificed to idols (v. 28), which is forbidden (Rev. 2:20; nor to devils: Lev. 17:7). Ideally, we would raise our own meat (so we could be certain it was not a firstling, or what should have been tithed on), and have our own orchards (to get fruit from trees of the correct age). Also food grown during a Land Sabbath is a concern, but it is the responsibility for these matters rests with the owners of the stock, orchards and grain; not with those to whom they sell. This is certainly true for grains and vegetables illegally grown during a land Sabbath. ■

The situation concerns a couple divorced following many years (35-40) of acute alcoholism of one individual. Since drunkenness is a sin, would Biblical rules allow for remarriage of the former wife in this case?

For unconverted individuals, remarriage after a divorce due to the extreme conditions of extended alcoholism, would be unlawful while the husband is living. Certainly divorce is allowed under certain circumstances (I Cor. 7:11: incompatibility; Deut. 24:1-2: uncleanness; Matt. 5:32: fornication), but not for just any reason.

Now if the woman became converted and baptized while the alcoholic husband was not, then she is no longer under any obligation to remain single, but is free to remarry (I Cor. 7:15). She is freed from her past by baptism, Yahshua's sacrifice and the forgiveness Yahweh grants. It would be best, however, for the remarriage to be in the faith, i.e. in the church. ■

I need your help in understanding a passage in Amos that I came across the other day. Amos 8:5 says "When will the New Moon be past, That we may sell grain...?" Sounds as though they were treating the New Moon as a Holy Day. In fact, the footnote says it was a

feast day. What does this mean?

First, there is no indication from the Law that each New Moon is a Sabbath. It is a festival, certainly, as shown by Hosea 2:11: "I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days: her New Moons, and her Sabbaths, and all her solemn Feasts." However, we can see Hosea separates New Moon and Sabbaths, while showing they are in the category of Feasts.

Amos, too, shows consistency with the Law in this verse by showing they regarded the Sabbath as separate from the New Moon. He did not say, "...the New Moon Sabbath and the Sabbath (weekly Sabbath implied here)..."

A reference to the prophet Elisha also verifies the separate nature of these two observances when it is recorded, "...Wherefore will you go to him to day? It is neither New Moon nor Sabbath..." (II Ki. 3:23).

We know the New Moon is a Festival in which worship is required: Ezk. 46:3: "...the people...shall worship at the door of this gate before Yahweh in the Sabbaths and in the New Moons." Again, the Sabbaths and New Moons are listed separately, not just as Sabbaths.

All these references taken together leave no doubt the monthly New Moon (except for Trumpets) is not a Sabbath...unless a yearly Sabbath or weekly Sabbath happens to fall on a New Moon.

If the whole nation were keeping the New Moons with the worship time required, all business would come to a virtual standstill as people had to prepare a special meal, have a convocation, visit, clean up, etc. Perhaps several families got together or certainly some with the King: I Samuel 20:25. Others perhaps had a reunion as vv. 5-6 show was the case for David's family which held a yearly family reunion killing an animal for the roast and celebration on the New Moon. [KJV margin: "sacrifice" = "Feast").

It is also possible this verse is referring to the Trumpets New Moon since it does say THE New Moon. There is only one to which a Sabbath would apply everytime: The Feast of Trumpets, the New Moon of the 7th moon.

Scholars as well acknowledge the New Moons were an important national festival in Israel in which business ceased. ■

What are the requirements for being able to take the 2nd Passover?

The requirements are laid out in Numbers 9:5-14: missing Passover while on a long journey or being unclean by a dead body. These are the only two allowances. ■

★★★★★★

Should We Observe Hanukkah?

Is this Jewish celebration Biblical?



What is Hanukkah and do the Scriptures allow its observance? Also called the Feast of Dedication or Feast of Lights, Hanukkah is most often translated “dedication.” This Jewish celebration was instituted by Judas Maccabaeus (B.C. 164) [not Yahweh], in memory of the cleansing of the temple from the pollutions of Antiochus Epiphanes [I Macc. 4:59]. It is presently an eight-day religious observance, supposedly surrounding a miracle of oil in which one day’s supply of oil in the menorah was said to last for eight days.

But is it Biblical? Notice what one Jewish writer frankly admits, “...Hanukkah is the only major holiday that has no basis in the Bible.”⁽¹⁾ “...no basis in the Bible” says it all. You may search the Bible from cover-to-cover, but nowhere will you find Yahweh or Yahshua commanding the celebration of Hanukkah.

Some, however, point to John 10:22: “And it was at Jerusalem the feast of dedication and it was winter” (KJV). Using this verse, they celebrate the feast of Hanukkah because, they say, “Yahshua observed it.” Even some Bible commentators say he did.⁽²⁾ But did he?

Would Yahshua add to the Law by introducing a *new* holy day? Hardly. Could He? No. Israel defeated many armies; the ark was returned by the Philistines (I Sam. 6 & 7), etc. But there was *never* a sanctioned Holy Day set aside for any of those victories or the return of the ark. Why? Because Israel *knew* no holy days can be added to the Law (Deut. 12:32).

When we look closer at John 10:22-23 we find Yahshua’s clear statement to the Jews *who were observing Hanukkah*, “...you are NOT of my sheep...my sheep hear *my* voice...and they follow me.” We would think if they “were on the same page” believing the same things, including Hanukkah, they would have been his sheep. Basically, those observing Hanukkah were *not* his sheep, as He clearly said. Too, He and the Jews were constantly at odds during that festival (John 9:16, 29; 8:59; 10:20, 31, etc.), and obviously at odds on *many issues*.

It is also interesting that during the “festival of lights” Yahshua refers to Himself as, “I am the light of the world” (John 9:5). It is as if He is upstaging their

celebration to focus, not on their “feast of lights,” but Himself as the true Light.

A lady told me several years ago said that she had researched the “miracle of lights” legend and found it did not happen, but was a concocted tale added to “sell” the festival. In this regard, it is noteworthy that the story in I & II Maccabees makes no mention, *none whatsoever*, of the cruse of oil or any miracle of oil lasting over a week! Even Josephus, the Jewish historian, never mentions any such miracle. Such an obvious omission from a first-hand account [Macc. I & 2] and Josephus is virtually conclusive proof there was no “miracle of oil.”

The legend of the miracle was never mentioned until contained in the rabbinic material called the Gemara about the third century A.D.: “...we find virtual silence in the Mishnah about Hanukkah. Only in the Gemara (the later rabbinic material that together with the Mishnah makes up the Talmud) do we find the long-lost miracle of Hanukkah.”⁽³⁾

The evidence from history prior to the Gemara shows beyond any reasonable doubt the “miracle” was never lost, because it never happened. Its sudden appearance in this much later work is suspect at best, and gained acceptance as authentic despite a total lack of support from the eyewitness testimony of the Maccabees.

Hanukkah is an example of how easily a *tradition* can be accepted and perpetrated for centuries. Antiquity then becomes proof of authenticity. There are many such examples in religion. The Messiah Yahshua warned of this human tendency to hold to tradition instead of Yahweh’s word: “For laying aside the commandment of God [Yahweh], ye hold the tradition of men...” (Mark 7:8). Truly, nowhere does the Bible command or allow the observance of this widely celebrated religious festival. Yahweh does command, however, that we must **not** add to the Law (Deut. 12:32). Clearly, Hanukkah is not to be observed by Yahweh’s people. – ICY

REFERENCES:

- 1 - Strassfeld, *The Jewish Holidays, A Guide and Commentary*, p. 162.
- 2 - *Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, p. 362.
- 3 - Strassfeld, p. 163.

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What is 'Baptism for the Dead' Referring to in I Corinthians 15:28-30?

What is meant by the phrase "baptism for the dead?" Much speculation surrounds this rather mysterious phrase. Did the early Church of Yahweh have some hidden ritual, some secret rite of passage for the dead, cloaked in a magical baptism performed on their behalf? Let us take a closer look and see what the Bible reveals.

The New Testament verses referring to baptism for the dead are I Corinthians 15:28-30 (*KJV*), which read:

"v. 28. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. v. 29. Else what shall they do which are **baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?** v. 30. And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?"

In particular, verse 29 is the highly debated verse as admitted by scholars of the Greek texts.⁽¹⁾ There is a variety of interpretations most of which conclude this was a practice of **heretics** that some members had carried with them into the church. The heretics would typically be the Cerinthians, Marcionites, etc.⁽²⁾

Such a carryover from pagan practices is not at all far-fetched. Paul was writing to the church at Corinth composed of Gentiles who, coming from a non-Hebrew background, had much to *unlearn*. The church at Galatia, a Gentile region, also had pagan practices he had to address which were stunting their spiritual growth (Gal. 4:10).

There are several facts which argue against this *being a Scriptural practice* for the church then or now.

First and very significantly, in Ecclesiastes 9:5 **we see**: "For the living know that they shall die: **but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward**; for the memory of them is forgotten."

Clearly, there is nothing more the dead can gain, no MORE reward they can get. This of itself is conclusive evidence against the common belief or the interpretation that one can be baptized for the dead to, presumably, help them in some way...or so it is implied by what is sometimes believed. Those advocating baptism for the dead or on behalf of the dead, never define *Biblically* what exactly this baptism is supposed to do or accomplish. This is to be expected for there is no Biblical basis for it.

Second, if this was a church doctrine...which incidentally neither Paul nor **none** of the apostles ever said that *they* would or ever did practice...it is left with no clarification in the New Testament nor in its foundation, the Old Testament.

Baptism certainly has a foundation in the Law, as sur-

prising as that may be. But its application to the dead is nowhere to be found in Scripture...aside from this obscure reference in first Corinthians.

Third, given that water baptism washes away sins of the *living* (Acts 22:16), there is no possibility, by definition, that the dead could in anyway be affected by a kind of baptism-by-proxy of a living person. In fact, there is no Biblical foundation whatsoever for one living person being baptized for another *living person* let alone being baptized for one already deceased.

Fourth, this belief of doing something to change the dead's reward or otherwise modify their place in the resurrection, borders on doing "odd" things for or on behalf of the dead, necromancy for example [communication with the dead], and other practices definitely forbidden by the Law:

(1). Deuteronomy 14:1: "Ye are the children of Yahweh your Elohim: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the **dead**."

(2). Deuteronomy 26:14: "I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away ought thereof for any unclean use, nor given ought thereof for the **dead**."

(3). Deuteronomy 18:10-12: "There shall not be found among you...a charmer...or a **necromancer**...For all that do these things are an abomination unto Yahweh."

(4). Leviticus 19:28: "Ye shall not make any **cuttings** in your flesh for the **dead**, nor print any marks upon you: I am Yahweh."

Yahweh knew pagan nations Israel encountered practiced such abominations as these and specifically legislated against such bazaar and sinful behavior. "...Learn not the way of the heathen..." (Jer. 10:2), Yahweh decrees.

Incidentally, a **necromancer** (Hebrew SEC 1875, 4191: lit. "to worship death or the dead") is one who supposedly communicates with the dead. In fact, the Greek word used in I Corinthians 15:29 for "dead" is "*nekros*" (Greek: SEC 3498) which is the same as "*neco*" or "*dead*" used with "*-mancer*" in Deuteronomy 18:11.

In light of these facts, there is no legitimate reason to interpret I Corinthians 15:29 as some ritual, completely undefined either in the Law or New Testament that is to be part of church doctrine. It appears rather, given that the various translations are accurate, as possibly a pagan holdover. Some in the early church were still wanting to cling to this belief held prior to coming into Yahweh's congregation. – **ICY**

REFERENCES:

1 - Arndt-Gingrich Lexicon, p. 84.

2 - Jamieson, Fausset & Brown, *Commentary on the Whole Bible*, p. 1223; Unger's *Bible Dictionary*, p. 124.

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What does Galatians 3:19 mean by the Law being Added because of Transgressions?

The Apostle Paul's writings to the church at Galatia are often mistakenly thought to do away with the Law of the Old Testament. This is not at all what he taught.

When studying any of Paul's writings we do well to keep this statement in mind: "But this I confess to you, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the Elohim of my fathers, **believing all things which are written in the Law and the Prophets**" (Acts 24:14). The Law was one of the main divisions of the Old Testament; the Prophets and the Writings were the other two divisions.

Paul made this statement under very stressful conditions when he was brought before the governor to answer accusations against him. He emphatically said that he believed ALL things written in the Law, the first five books of the Old Testament. He obviously followed the tenants contained in the Law.

On another occasion it was rumored that Paul was teaching all Jews among the Gentiles to forsake the Law of Moses; in particular the law of circumcision (Acts 21:21). Knowing what he really believed and practiced, the brethren advised Paul: "...and all may know that those things whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing: **but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the Law**" (Acts 21:24).

In another letter, this time to the church at Rome, Paul clearly pointed out that the Law is binding and cannot be annulled: "Know ye not, brethren...how that **the Law hath dominion over a man AS LONG AS HE LIVETH**" (Rom. 1:1).

All these references, and more which could be cited, show beyond any doubt that Paul taught and practiced obedience to Yahweh's Holy Law. He did not advocate the Law was "done away" or "ended at the cross," contrary to what many say.

Having this background, let us look at the sometimes controversial verse nineteen of Galatians chapter three. Here it is in the *King James Version*: "Wherefore then serves the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator."

An earlier verse clarifies what is meant by "the Law" and "the promise:" "What I am saying is: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by Yahweh, so as to nullify the promise. For if the inheritance

is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise: but Yahweh granted it [inheritance] to Abraham by means of a promise" (v. 15).

Exactly what is the Law, which came 430 years later, after the promise made to Abraham? It must have some terms similar to the terms of the covenant promise Yahweh made with Abraham or else there would be no point in bringing it up. And what precisely is the covenant promise Paul refers to here? Whatever it is, it definitely is the central issue of his discussion.

What Law?

First, the Law referred to here is the Law of Moses. The Arndt-Gingrich Lexicon says the law referenced here (SEC 3551) is "especially the Mosaic law...absolutely without further qualification" (p. 544). This must, therefore, include the law which Moses received and recorded from his conversations with Yahweh and/or His angels during his forty-day stay on the mount (Mal. 4:4). It included the law and the testimony, i.e. the 600 or so judgments, statutes, etc. and the words on the tables of stone [testimony], the ten commandments (Ex. 31:18; 34:28-29; See again Mal. 4:4). The first five books of Scripture are collectively called "the Law," "the Law of Moses" or Mosaic Law (Matt. 5:17; Luke 24:44).

This must include the ten commandments. Note too, that Paul says this whole law, "The Law" was "...handed down ['ordained' *KJV*; 'transmitted' *NWT*] by angels with a man [Moses] acting as a go-between (v.19 *GNB*; See Deut. 5:5). The Law was not from Moses. He was merely the go-between giving the Law to the people. It was not his law in any sense of the word.

Other translations clarify the issue

Next Paul says, "It was added because of transgressions..." (*KJV*). Other translations of this phrase give:

"It was added in order to show what wrong is..." (*GNB*)

"It was an addition made to underline the existence and extent of sin..." (*Phillips*)

"It was added to deal with crimes..." (*NJB*)

"It was added to make transgressions manifest..." (*NWT*)

"To reveal sin..." (*Companion Bible*)

Arndt-Gingrich Lexicon (p.885) says "'because' (SEC 5484): for the sake of, on behalf of, on account of." They add for Galatians 3:19: "for the sake of transgressions." In light of these translations it is clear the Law of Moses (including the ten commandments) was given in addition to the promises given to Abraham in order to help show what sin really is; to show men what they are doing wrong. The promise, as we will see, did not show what was right or wrong. That was not its purpose.

Jamieson Fausset and Brown Commentary says: "because of (or as the Greek, 'for the sake of) the transgression, i.e., to bring out into clearer view the transgressions of it [the Law] (Rom. 7:7-9); to make men more fully conscious of their sins, by being perceived as transgressions of the law, and so make them long for the promised Savior (SEC 1267)."

The Law predates Moses

These and other facts show the Law defining right and wrong did not suddenly come into existence with Moses. The laws were simply codified, written down and delivered through Moses to show what sin is, *to show what sins men had been committing all along*. Laws of right and wrong predated Moses by eons of time, for we know Adam and Cain sinned (Rom. 5:12; Gen. 4:7), and before that the angels sinned (II Pet. 2:4). Where there is no law there is no sin (Rom. 4:15).

In addition, the law establishing set times for Yahweh's Holy Days or Festivals was established during "creation week" long before the Abrahamic covenant: "...Let them [the lights] be for times, Religious Festivals (*Good News Bible*; "festivals:" *Jerusalem Bible*; "sacred seasons:" *Moffatt*), days and years" (Gen. 1:14). Without doubt the laws of right and wrong have existed throughout human and angelic history.

Law of Moses ended when the Messiah came?

Verse 19 continues: "...until the seed should come to whom the promise was made..."

Does this mean the Law of Moses in its entirety ended with the coming of the Messiah? Does it mean the ten commandments, holy days, clean and unclean meats, loving your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:18), lov-

ing Yahweh with all your heart, etc. were nullified when Yahshua came? Hardly, for Yahshua meant it when He said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the Law [of Moses] or the Prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill [Gr. *pleroo*; meaning to live, to do, to keep; same word used in Matt. 3:35].” He obviously did not come to do away with the Law of Moses, contrary to the commonly accepted view of Paul’s statement.

Yahshua’s purpose was not to destroy the Law, so what was He supposed to accomplish? John answers: “...seeing Yahshua coming to him, and says, Behold the Lamb of Yahweh, which takes away the sin of the world” (1:29). Matthew records: “...and shall call his name Yahshua: for he shall save his people from their sins” (1:21). He came as a sacrifice for sin (Heb. 1:3; 10:12, 26). The Law is still binding (Matt. 5:18).

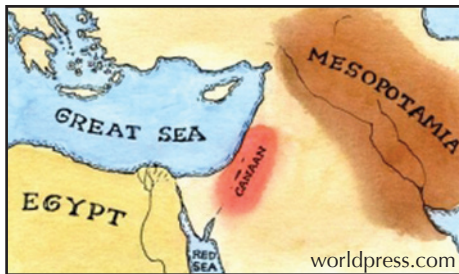
What is the “covenant promise?”

Next, the covenant promise Paul speaks of (Gal. 3:15 quoted above) is found in Gen. 17:4-11: “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you. And you shall be the father of a multitude of nations...And I will give to you and to your descendents, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession AND I will be their Elohim...This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you, every male among you shall be circumcised...and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.”

These are the terms of the Covenant. Notice it does not define righteousness; showing right from wrong. Another coming after Abraham, his descendent, was to whom these promises were made: “...until the seed [Messiah, v. 16] should come to whom the promise had been made” (v. 19).

Below is a comparison of the covenant with Abraham [CA] and the Law [L]:

(1). CA was to make the lineage of Abraham many nations, i.e. many different nations. The L did not allow for foreigners to be inheritors equal with the natural lineage of Abraham. It actually excluded certain groups forever from such rights (Moabites and Ammonites, Deut. 23:4). Marrying a stranger excluded the priest’s daughter from eating of the holy offerings what was ordinarily her right (Lev. 22:12). Consequently, foreigners, non-Israelites, could not be part of the many nations which Abraham’s seed would become. Through circumcision a foreigner could eat the Passover, but this did not include rights of birth the Israelites enjoyed. The L was incapable of fulfilling this portion of the CA.



(2). CA deeded Abraham the land of Canaan. The L was used as the vehicle by which this portion of the CA could be carried out. Some did not enter the promised land, because they did not fully follow Yahweh’s commands of the L (Num. 14:27-33; 32:11). Paul alludes to their failure to enter the rest of Yahweh for disobedience and unbelief (Heb. 3:7-19; 4:1-3). Entering into the promised land was therefore contingent on obedience to the Law of Moses (Deut. 16:20).

(3). CA was sealed with circumcision. The L too incorporated this seal or sign of righteousness (Ex. 12:44, 48; Lev. 12:3).

What most overlook

There is obviously a “weakness” in the Law on the first terms of the covenant. Something else was needed to fulfill this portion of the promise. Notice again, the weekly and annual Sabbaths, the land Sabbaths, Jubilee, New Moon’s, clean and unclean meats, adultery, murder, coveting, bearing false witness, honoring your father and mother...etc., obviously are absolutely not part of the terms of the Covenant with Abraham. Their validity is not called into question, as commonly assumed. The perpetuity of these laws, and hundreds more, are not at all part of the covenant discussion.

What is so often missed by those looking for any excuse, to avoid Yahweh’s Law? This. The *first terms of the promise* to Abraham were capable of being fully carried out only through Yahshua’s sacrifice. The Law is not “defective,” but *another sacrifice* was needed to enforce those covenant terms, designed to make of Abraham a multitude of nations; not just one nation, Israel, made great in numbers, but MANY NATIONS, i.e. many *different nations*. A multitude of *nationalities* would be made the descendents of Abraham. How is that possible? How could uncircumcised Gentiles become heirs to the promise and thus descendents of Abraham?

Paul clearly shows earlier in this chapter: “Messiah has redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us...” (ch. 3, v.13). The penalty of death is the curse of the Law, the curse which comes from breaking it. Paul does not say that



Yahshua redeemed us from the Law, but from the curses of the Law, the penalties incurred by disobedience (See Deut. 28).

Why was Yahshua made a curse? Paul explains: “*That the blessing of Abraham [the covenant promise through which he was blessed] might come on the Gentiles [too] through Yahshua the Messiah...*” (v. 14). How clear.

Notice too Paul’s letter to the Ephesians: “Therefore, remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision” which is performed in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and STRANGERS TO THE COVENANTS OF PROMISE, having no hope and without Yahweh in the world. **But now in Messiah Yahshua you who formerly were far off are brought near by the blood of Messiah**” (Eph. 2:11-13)!

This is how the promise to Abraham was to be completed: through Yahshua’s sacrifice which brings those *outside* the commonwealth of Israel *into that family* to be a family of *different nations*. That is how *many nations* would be privy to the covenant promises: through Yahshua!

This is why the Law could serve, would have to serve, the purpose of the “many nations” clause of the covenant, until Yahshua came so its terms could be implemented. Now with righteousness through Yahshua, also available to Gentiles as well-through the converting Spirit of Yahweh, they are grafted in and also heirs to the promises given to Abraham. — ICY

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The Scriptural Day

Why is the old Babylonian sunset-to-sunset day so tenaciously defended? Where does the Bible teach a sunset-to-sunset day? Does Leviticus 23:32 prove this?

The Scriptural Day is one of the most misunderstood topics in the entire Bible. Millions in modern Judaism and hundreds of thousands more in groups worldwide have adopted the Babylonian day of ancient times, and imposed it upon Scripture.

The ancient Babylonian sunset-to-sunset day, which some Israelites carried with them out of Babylon, is not Scriptural, and has survived down to our time as the cornerstone of those claiming to observe the Biblical Sabbaths.⁽¹⁾

This unscriptural definition of *day* is widely defended, but cannot be *Scripturally* justified. Many, though well-intentioned, mistakenly feel they have successfully proven their case for this Babylonian usage.

The proof of the *true Scriptural* day running from dawn-to-dark can and must be demonstrated as absolutely as any theorem in mathematics. Due to the extreme importance of this subject, example scriptures are discussed to show their compatibility with Yahweh's Laws of day and night, even though on the surface, they may appear not to be (all such scriptures obviously could not be addressed here). The expression "sunset-to-sunset," often phrased "evening-to-evening," is understood to mean sunset of one day until sunset of the following day.

The Right Place to Start

The correct understanding of the Scriptural day hinges on finding and using terms the Bible defines. Those *Scripturally defined* terms are the places to start if there is to be any hope of getting at the truth.

Imagine trying to communicate with someone without knowing the meaning of their words. It would be impossible to understand what is being said or written. Likewise, when communicating with Yahweh, He *cannot* communicate with us if we refuse to accept *His* definitions.

But what most do, instead of tenaciously sticking to Yahweh's definition of the term *day*, is interpret a verse or verses to suit *their definition* of the term. It is hardly surprising, then that they keep coming up with the same

unscriptural Babylonian evening-to-evening "day." The reasoning is circular: the Biblical day is from sunset-to-sunset, because the *interpretation* of a verse or verses *must be* "the day is from sunset-to-sunset."

We must start with **Yahweh's clear definition of DAY**, then and only then will we have the proper basis on which to build. Remember Yahshua said "...YOUR [Yahweh's] WORD IS TRUTH" (John 17:17). Not my or your word, but *Yahweh's* word is truth.

Typical False Accusations

Some typically claim ICY's teaching of a dawn-to-dark Scriptural Day, as one opponent put it "...shows the danger of using human reasoning, and one or two obscure Scriptures to support the theory that days begin at dawn and ignoring the preponderance of evidence showing an evening beginning."

This and similar accusations contain misleading and false information. First, it says the dawn-to-dark concept shows the *danger* of human reasoning. The danger is to the false evening-to-evening day. But what is implied is that *flawed* human reasoning is used to reach the conclusion that the Scriptural day starts at dawn and ends at dark.

Often, following a superficial analysis of some Scripture, the claim is made that the dawn-to-dark day contradicts that scripture. The flaw is supposedly that we violate the Law of Contradiction (Both *p* and *not p* cannot be true at the same time.).

The truth is the dawn-to-dark day does not contradict Scripture. It is the evening-to-evening [sunset-to-sunset] day, which is Scripturally contradictory, as we will see. A careful and thoughtful look at the facts presented here will show the erroneous evening-to-evening day concept applied to Scripture is the **result of not using reasoning correctly**.

Second, this accusation claims we use obscure scriptures. This is blatantly false, as will be shown beyond any doubt.

Third, opponents claim only one or two Scriptures support the dawn-to-dark day. Actually there are many

more than that, but the *logical truth* is *one Scripture is enough if YAHWEH says it is*.

Yahweh *does not* have to tell us several times something is true before we are required to believe Him. *If Yahweh told us just once not to commit murder, then that would be enough to make it Law*. In fact, it is the rebellious child that has to be told over and over to do something. The obedient child does it the *first time* he/she is told without arguing.

If Yahweh gives us a command or definition one time, then that is enough. For *human testimony* at least *two witnesses* are required for the death penalty, for example.

Nowhere does the Bible state or imply that Yahweh must tell us something more than once to make it true. How absurd to think that stating something two or more times make it true if it was not true the first time! If it is true the first time, then it is true *absolutely*. Saying it twice more, or ten more times has no bearing on its truth whatever.

Refusal to accept a single statement from Yahweh is tantamount to one saying he will not believe Yahweh unless He repeats it enough times for *him to decide* to believe it; like the stubborn child.

You can rest assured if Yahweh tells us what a Scriptural Day is—**just one time**—*it is true unconditionally and absolutely!*

“...one Scripture is enough if Yahweh says it.”

Fourth, *there is no* preponderance of *Biblical* evidence supporting the sunset-to-sunset day. This false claim is made so often many have convinced themselves and others it is true, when in fact there is no plethora of such evidence. There is a preponderance of *interpretations* which support that view, but not *Biblical facts*.

Yahweh's Definition of Day

The *Biblical facts* are essential to *rightly dividing* Yahweh's word on this extremely important issue. The correct place to start the analysis is with clear, unambiguous **Scriptural** definitions. We must let Yahweh tell us what *He* means by the term “day,” rather than substituting our own or some traditional or secular definition.

Notice now the clear definition Yahweh gives:

“And Elohim CALLED the **LIGHT DAY**...” (Gen. 1:5).

First, we should ask, “Is this statement true?” Of course it is. To deny its truth is to call Yahweh a liar, and we know He cannot lie (Heb. 6:18; Tit. 1:2). Did Yahweh change His mind later on, somewhere? No: “I am Yahweh, I change not...” (Mal. 3:6).

Now if it is true that *light is day*, which it is, why does

it need to be stated ten more times? Would that make it any more or any less true? Not at all; it **is true absolutely**. Frantically searching through scores of other verses to see if this one is true is pointless. It is the other way around. ALL other verses involving these terms *have to conform to this one; be consistent with it*. Any verse or verses that appear to contradict this definition must incessantly be studied until total consistency is found with this absolute definition in Genesis. **There can be NO compromising on this point**. Any apparent contradiction is strictly in the mind of the reader; not in the Bible.

Neither is an objection valid such as, “But this is just one definition of day in the Bible [notwithstanding an “era” etc.]” This is not just one definition, but the *only one* which defines the Sun's rule regulating the duration of Yahweh's Sabbaths and weekdays. Any other *supposed* definition of day contradicting this one is simply false.

Now can any in truth deny that this statement is not the least bit obscure? On the contrary, it is so simple and crystal clear, who can doubt its truth?

Yahweh “...CALLED the **LIGHT (SEC 216) DAY (SEC 3117)**...” THIS IS **HIS** DEFINITION OF DAY. Day MUST BE LIGHT! What authority can change or modify that definition? It *cannot* be changed, **nor contradicted** by any other verses of Scripture. It is YAHWEH who decreed that light is called Day. Who will tell HIM day is not *light*?

But what is light (SEC 216)? “And Elohim *saw the light*...” (Gen. 1:4) and “...and Elohim *saw that*...[the lights of the firmament: v. 14]...” (v. 18). Therefore light is visible and undoubtedly the visible portion of the electromagnetic spectrum.

And *what light* rules the day? Verse 16: “...And Elohim made...the greater light to rule the day...” This clearly reveals Elohim *saw the greater light (Sun; Psa. 136:8) ruling the day*. So the Biblical day lasts while the Sun's light rules, dominating the lesser light (*Moon; Psa. 136:9*) and the stars.

Now, to remove all chance of misunderstanding, Yahweh follows this LAW with a *contrasting* LAW in an equally clear definition:

“And the **DARKNESS** He called **NIGHT**” (Gen. 1:5).

Is *this* statement true as it stands without being repeated? Absolutely. It *cannot* be changed, **nor contradicted** by any other verses of Scripture.

Recall in v. 4 “...Elohim SEPARATED the light *from* the darkness (Sec 2822).” Is *this too*, a true statement? Of course; this separation was a *divine act of Yahweh*. Light and darkness are *opposites*. Darkness cannot be seen. Light can. *Darkness is Night* (SEC 3915). The conclusion could not be more certain: DAY IS NOT NIGHT AND DOES NOT INCLUDE A PERIOD OF DARKNESS.

How could Yahweh make these facts any plainer than He has in these verses?

Obscure? Hardly.

Since LIGHT is DAY (v. 5), *Biblically*, day **cannot** include night! So a Scriptural day **cannot** run from sunset-to-sunset, including the night. Consequently, *day must be the light period from dawn-to-dark* during which the Sun's light rules.

Is this not *why* Yahshua, said, "For as Jonas was three DAYS *and* three NIGHTS in the whale's belly; so shall he be three DAYS *and* three NIGHTS in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:39)? He clearly separated *day from night* just like Genesis 1:4. Certainly, He knew the difference between day and night.

If the Biblical day included the darkness of night, running sunset-to-sunset, then He would have said "...three days..." only, because it would have been understood the night was included as part of the day. But, of course, He did not say that, because day and night are Scripturally as different as...well, light and dark.

How absolute is *Yahshua's* statement, showing day and night are completely separate periods of time? "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Matt. 24:35). Note Genesis 8:22: "While the earth remains...*day AND night shall not cease.*" (See also Jer. 33:20).

Anyone changing Yahweh's definitions that *light is day* and *darkness is night* by claiming the Scriptural day runs from sunset-to-sunset so that a day would include a night-time period, does so against Yahweh's *divine decree* which unequivocally proves otherwise.

In the table below, notice the large number of times *day* is contrasted with night showing they are separate from each other as Yahweh decreed in Genesis 1:4, and *day cannot contain night*:

Here are 62 references clearly contrasting day and night as *distinctly different terms!* These are *consistent* with Yahweh's definitions of day and night stated in Genesis 1:5, as they **must be**. The wide variety of Biblical authors using the phrases in the table below obviously knew the difference between day and night.

Any *interpretation* of Scripture which *appears* to support a sunset-to-sunset "day," for all weekdays and

all Sabbaths or the verse, Leviticus 23:32 (see pages 18-19 of this article), must be intensely scrutinized and harmonized with the definitions of day and night in Genesis which cannot change.

The counterfeit Babylonian sunset-to-sunset day is so cleverly crafted that few today suspect Satan tampered with the Biblical day, and the resultant Scriptural Sabbaths.

Consequently, most all who know the simple truth that the seventh-day Sabbath must be observed, only question the Sunday substitute. They are in reality accepting *another substitute*, a much better counterfeit, one closer to the real thing than Sunday: a Friday sunset-to-Saturday sunset *manmade* Sabbath.

Evening and Morning...

Now that Yahweh has clearly defined Day and Night for us, we are ready to finish verse five of Genesis chapter one. The phrase at the end of this verse and succeeding verses (8, 12, 19, 23, 31), has been the source of untold confusion, contradiction and misapplication.

Yahweh ends this verse with "And the evening and the morning were the first day" (*KJV*). Most translations generally agree with the *KJV*. What does nearly everyone miss when they read this verse?

This. **DAY** has already been defined as **LIGHT**. *If evening is part of the day*, as this verse shows, then IT MUST BE A PERIOD OF LIGHT. It cannot be part of the darkness of night, because it is part of the light of day. This is one of the crucial overlooked facts of this verse.

Few would disagree that *morning* is light, part of the day, as this verse emphatically states. But the same verse shows just as emphatically that evening is part of the day too. **It must, therefore, be a period of light as well!**

This is so obviously certain who could reasonably doubt its truth?

Where does this say the day begins in the evening? People *assume* that. It just says the evening was or occurred the first, second, ...day, and the morning was or occurred the first, second, ...day.

These verses cannot be advocating that evening continues through the night until the next morning, thus having a "day" starting at sunset and containing the following night. How do we *know* this? Because to assume otherwise contradicts other clear statements. Namely, the phrases immediately preceding: Light He called Day and Darkness He called Night, AND that evening and morning are part of the light period called Day.

Neither of them can be part of the Night because Yahweh separated (divided), the **light** from the **darkness** and therefore, *separated* (divided), the **day** from the **night**, i.e. separated both the evening and morning from the night.

Again, most everyone jumps to contradictory conclu-

Times Used		Phrase Used
(O.T.)	(N.T.)	
9	2	"...forty days and forty nights..."
1	2	"...three days and three nights..."
1	-	"...seven days and seven nights"
27	9	"...day and [by, that, nor] night..."
1	6	"...night and day..."
3	-	"...all night until the morning..."
1	-	"...night is far spent...day is at..."
43	19	Totals

sions over the "...evening and morning..." statements, trying to make more of them than Yahweh does. Adding to the Scriptures carries a penalty as well as taking from them (Deut. 12:32). Precision is the key. We must strive to be as precise as Yahweh.

The Scriptural Weekly Sabbath

The only way we know what hours to observe Yahweh's weekly Sabbath is by His clear decree that "*light is Day*" and "*darkness is Night*." The day must be the period of *light* from dawn-to-dark. Sunset does not mark the beginning or ending of the Biblical day. It simply marks the beginning of the twelfth and final hour of the day.

Long before sunrise, when the Sun begins ruling, its growing light gradually fades the light of thousands of stars. This is the beginning of its rule or break of dawn.

Dawn's earliest light on any day of the year is determined by computing the length of the Scriptural day.⁽²⁾

Biblical daybreak begins when the center of the sun's disk is about 12° to 15° below the horizon, depending on the time of year. This is the beginning and ending of *Biblical twilight* on each end of the day, and corresponds *approximately* to what is known in astronomy as *nautical twilight*. The duration of Scriptural daylight depends on latitude and longitude and time of year. It can typically range from 11 hours 40 minutes to 17 hours 30 minutes.

This is the kind of detail needed to adequately conform to Yahweh's definition of Day.

Now with all the foregoing facts of this study clearly in mind we can understand one of the most misunderstood commandments in all the Bible, Yahweh's definition of the weekly Sabbath:

"And Elohim blessed the seventh **day** (SEC 3117) and sanctified **it**..." (Gen. 2:3).

And

"Remember the Sabbath **day** (SEC 3117) to keep **it holy**...the seventh **day is the Sabbath of Yahweh**...wherefore **Yahweh** blessed the Sabbath **day** and allowed **it**" (Ex. 20:8-11).

Notice Yahweh DID NOT sanctify the seventh night, but rather the seventh *day*! And we *know* He knows the difference between night and day; which are the boundaries *He personally set*. The Sabbath of Yahweh, according to this verse in conjunction with Genesis 1:5, is only *light* or what He called *day*. **It starts early in the morning at the break of dawn long before sunrise** when the sun's center is typically 12° to 15° below the horizon (depending on the time of year). It continues from this time until long *after sundown*, as the sun's light gradually diminishes and darkness finally prevails, when its center is again 12° to 15° below the horizon.

This continuous period of day contains varying sunlight intensity. It begins as the darkness of night gives

way to light and ends when light gives way to the darkness of night. This is the **true Biblical Sabbath DAY**: dawn-to-dark.

Additional Facts About the Biblical Day

The fact that the Scriptural day is from dawn-to-dark has caused some to misunderstand certain verses for the following reason. The day period contains starlight.

All Biblical days are divided into twelve equal parts, a fact which has been curiously overlooked (John 11:9).⁽³⁾

Possibly because of this, some who can see the Bible teaches day is light, start the day at sunrise and end it at sunset not knowing when to start or end it.

Genesis 1:5, which tells us *light is day* and *darkness*

"The counterfeit sunset-to-sunset day is...cleverly crafted..."

is night, is not precise enough to show **exactly when to begin and end the day**. We know the Biblical day exists while the Sun rules, and must be measured by how much time it rules. But something more is needed, and cannot be left to the imagination; each deciding for himself.

What is needed are the crucial facts detailed in the book previously referenced⁽¹⁾ which show (Matt. 20:1-12; Luke 1:9-11; John 11:9) there are twelve equal divisions in the day and **very importantly ten hours from sunrise-to-sunset**. This latter fact allows easy calculation of the Biblical hour or one-twelfth of the day, and precise time when dawn starts and night begins. Without this crucial knowledge there is no way to know exactly *when* the Biblical day begins and ends. These are facts we must know.

It reveals how there can be a multitude of *stars visible* yet the *night has not yet begun*. Most all would conclude, erroneously, if the day contains visible stars then day must include the night. Their assumption being that stars are *only visible at night*. We must know when night begins so the Sun's rule is over. That answer can now be determined with great precision. With our calculations of the exact duration of the Biblical day we can know precisely when a day begins and ends.

When the sun is 12° to 15° below the horizon (again depending on the time of year) there are many visible stars *while the day is just beginning to break* as the sun's light begins its rule, and in very late evening as the sun's rule is ending.

This is why we find such verses as Job 38:7: "When the *morning* (SEC 1242: *dawn*; Gesenius, p. 137) *stars sang*..."

Stars are visible at the dawn, in the early morning.

Likewise Nehemiah 4:21-22 strongly indicates as much: “we *labored* in the work...from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared...and *labor on the day.*” They labored **ON (during)**, the *day from* the morning **until** the stars came out. The same day obviously extended after *sundown* until the stars were out in abundance *before* the Biblical night started.

Another scripture reveals this same condition. Notice carefully Yahweh SAW (Gen. 1: 18) in the fourth **day** (v. 19) the lights in the firmament (v. 14-15) giving light on the earth (v. 17), which included the sun (greater light), the moon (lesser light), and the stars (v. 16). Remember “evening” and “morning” have *already been defined as light* [Gen. 1:5].

Here it records visible starlight *during* the fourth *day* as dawn started long before sunrise of the fourth day. In that day stars could be seen a while before night fall, i.e. darkness as the sunlight grew very dim.

At this earliest point in the morning, for example, stars of sixth magnitude and dimmer would not be visible on the zenith (directly overhead).

However, stars such as the dim companion star, M78 [magnitude 4.9], of the binary star system in the handle of the Big Dipper [Ursa Major] would be visible with the sun 12° below the horizon before sunrise.

Ursa Major is visible throughout the year in mid northern latitudes and is referred to in Job 9:9 as the Bear (NAS). Often called the *seven sisters*, Ursa Major may well represent the seven churches mentioned in Revelation 1:20. It is visible *year round* as it rotates like a giant clock in the northern heavens.

To the unskilled observer, knowing little about Yahweh’s method of setting the times of the day, *it would still be night* when Ursa Major and other stars are visible.

These considerations are why Yahweh records phrases such as “...in the *morning watch*...” (Ex. 14:24). Watching for the morning was a practiced skill in ancient times, but unknown in modern religious organizations ignorant of Yahweh’s rules for the boundaries of the day. Watching for the start of day included starlight relative to growing sunlight before sunrise. The stars rule the night (Psa. 136:9), but *only when night starts*. Night begins *when sunlight is dimmed to the level determined by the duration of the twelve hours of the day*. The day’s twelve **Scriptural** hours set those limits. Prior to beginning their rule many, many stars are already visible.

John 20:1

Ignoring Yahweh’s definition that *light is day* and *darkness is night*, that the *day has twelve hours and ten hours from sunrise to sunset* (as explained above), many attempt to use this verse to undo His definitions.

But Yahweh’s definitions must be preserved. There can be no contradiction.

Given that, we must look more closely to find its harmony with those definitions. If John’s statement proves day can be night or includes the *night*, then the Bible contradicts itself in at least 65 or 70 places which show day and **night** distinctly different and separate. A person is not ready for *this* verse unless he/she is well grounded in the fundamental definitions upon which it is based. This is true in all cases.

Here is the verse (John 20:1):

“Now on the first “day” of the week Mary Magdalene, came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away...” (NAS)

In light of our previous discussion it is certain beyond all doubt that light is day and darkness is night. Let us look closely at this verse. First the Greek word “day” (SEC 2250: *hermera*) is in italics and is *not included in the original Greek*, but was added by the translators. Also the Greek word “night” (SEC 3571: *nux*) is not used. Rather, the Greek word “dark” (SEC 4653: *skotia*) is used.

Because the words day and night are not used, this



“...Yahweh called the day light.”

verse obviously *does not* say the day was night, or that the night was included in the day. It does say (1) it was the first of the week and (2) it was early. But early what?

If an evening-to-evening “day” is used then this would *have been* shortly after sunset Saturday-since it was “early.” **But** since it was *dark* as well, it would *have to be* at least shortly after evening when dark began, about an *hour or so after sunset*.

But even the evening-to-evening advocates say it must have been very near the time of daylight as opposed to about 8 or so hours further back into Saturday night. This clearly contradicts their evening-to-evening “day” concept.

That is, if it was **early and dark** at the beginning of their evening-to-evening day it had to be an hour or so after sundown when dark first set in or at the latest, the very earliest hours of Saturday night. By that reckoning, it *could not* have been near daylight Sunday morning. Clear and simple.

Using the following facts we can understand, without contradiction, exactly what this verse is saying. We must keep squarely in mind: (1) the clear Scriptural distinction between day and night given in both the Old and New Testaments, (2) light is day and darkness is night, (3) the limits of day set by 12 Biblical hours in the

day and 10 Biblical hours from sunrise to sunset, and (4) that *these* conditions determine when it is DARK ENOUGH to be NIGHT.

Again, recall from our earlier discussion multitudes of stars can be visible yet *not dark enough* to be classified as night. Night begins at a given location when the twelfth hour of day is ended. This can be as much as one hour and twenty-eight minutes or more after sunset. These conclusions are demanded by Yahweh's own definitions.

Here are what the facts of this verse tell us: This event took place on the first of the week in the *early morning* so it was NOT DARK ENOUGH TO BE CLASSIFIED AS NIGHT. That is why the Greek word for "night" (SEC 3571: *nux*) is *not used*. Instead the Greek word for "dark" (SEC 4653: *skotia*) is used. The Greek word translated here as "early" (SEC 4404) actually means "early in the morning."⁽⁴⁾

A parallel account of this event in Matthew 28:1 reveals the same:

"Now after the Sabbath, as it BEGAN TO DAWN TOWARD the first "day" of the week, came Mary Magdalene..." (NAS). ("...at the dawning into... [Green's Interlinear])

The word "dawn" (SEC 2020: *epiphauso*) means "to grow toward daylight" or to grow light.⁽⁵⁾ This had to be very early Sunday morning. Notice it BEGAN TO dawn or *just started* growing light at the first of the week. This indicates, as in John's account, that it was during the faintest light of the very early morning, **but not dark enough to be called night**. Notice also Luke 24:1: "upon the first of the week, *very early* in the morning..."

The other parallel account in Mark 16:1-2 gives us a somewhat different view:

"And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome...And very early in the morning the first "day" of the week, they came to sepulcher at the rising of the sun."

This account may possibly be reconciled with the others by recalling that John shows Mary Magdalene had *already been to the tomb* at the *earliest dawn*, and left

"...Night begins at a given location when the twelfth hour of day is ended."

to tell Peter and John. This must have taken some time. While she made her way back with Peter and John, the other two women arrived at the tomb at *about sunrise*. They left before the others got there with Mary Magda-



The Biblical Day begins and ends when the sun is well below the horizon; beginning in the early dawn; ending after dusk. wikimedia.org

lene who went there the first time "...very early in the morning..." (Mark 16:2; John 20:1). The other Mary and Salome got there later at "...the rising of the sun" (Mark 16:2). It appears, therefore, Mark gives a somewhat compressed account compacting the two different arrivals at the tomb in a single narrative.

Leviticus 23:32

This verse is the all time favorite of sunset-to-sunset advocates because it contains the expression "evening-to-evening." This phrase is found *only* in this verse. Here, as in earlier cases examined, we find this verse *does not* prove what most everyone claims: that *all Sabbaths* and *all other Biblical days* are from *sunset-to-sunset*.

As mentioned earlier, no one is ready for *this* verse unless he/she is well grounded in the fundamental definitions upon which it is based; certainly even more so in this case than most others. What follows here is sure "to raise some disapproving eyebrows," because of the long entrenched Babylonian sunset-to-sunset "day" concept.

First, keep in mind the phrase, "evening-to-evening," in this verse cannot be assumed to mean "sunset-to-sunset" unless absolutely proven *Scripturally* to be so. This verse definitely ups the level of difficulty when applying Yahweh's terms.

Here is this important and very misunderstood verse:

"It is a Sabbath of rest to you, and you shall humble your souls, in the ninth day of the month at evening [lit. Heb. "in the evening"], from evening-to-evening shall you keep your Sabbath" (Lev. 23:32; KJV).

In the Hebrew text, the word "Sabbath" ending this verse is *definitely singular*.⁽⁶⁾ Some use the *mistranslation* of the LXX (Septuagint), which translates the word as plural, to apply this verse to *all Sabbaths*. The

LXX is a valuable translation of the Old Testament, but it cannot successfully be defended as *perfect*; especially in this verse.

Remember, Yahweh says, “Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do: you shall **NOT ADD TO** nor take away from it. (Deut. 12:21). So singular words in Scripture cannot arbitrarily be pluralized; for whatever reason.

Since “Sabbath,” is singular here, it undeniably must be *a particular Sabbath*. This Sabbath starts the evening of the ninth day of the seventh month. It could not be more certain that *nothing* is said here about *any* other Sabbath. Neither the weekly Sabbath *nor any other day* is mentioned or implied in this verse nor in verses 27 through 32.

Therefore, any similarities this period has with other days of the year **must be a clearly established fact of Scripture**; not speculation, but *facts* showing similarities.

This Sabbath begins on the ninth at evening running evening-to-evening *for that day and no others, as this verse clearly states*. The entire context of the matter being discussed is the *seventh month* of the year. There is not the slightest hint of other times of year; *other months or days of the year are not even addressed!* So honestly, does this verse prove all Biblical days, including Sabbaths, run from sunset-to-sunset? Not at all.

Next, *is the point virtually missed by all*, because they *assume* a day is from sunset-to-sunset. This is the first **KEY** needed to unlock the mystery of this verse which appears to contradict Yahweh’s clear laws regulating day and night proven earlier.

The point is this, *Yahweh does not* call this evening-to-evening rest period a **“day.”** Men do, but He simply tells us to rest during *that* span of time starting on or in the ninth at the evening, running from evening-to-evening.

The next vital, but overlooked, **KEY** is the *Biblical* meaning of the period **from evening-to-evening IN** the ninth of the month. Keep in mind *Yahweh* defined **day as light** prior to Leviticus 23:32. He did not suddenly change His mind. Neither can we.

Notice the *Bible* says, **“...IN the ninth of the month.”** No mention is made of the tenth of the month. **“IN”** means the evening-to-evening period **TAKES PLACE IN THE NINTH OF THE MONTH**. That is clearly what it says. So no Biblical basis exists in this phrase to support the **assumption** of a sunset-to-sunset day; nor that the tenth day starts at sunset and includes the night, which has already been proven false.

The final key unlocking the meaning of the evening-to-evening period in or within (Hebrew preposition here is “bi” meaning “in” or “within”) the ninth, is the fact that a Scriptural day has *two* evenings. Yes, **TWO!** Or we might say the evening has *two parts*.

Here is how we know. The phrase “between the eve-

nings” is used *eleven* times referring to a period in one day (See Ex. 12:6; 16:12; 29:39, 44; Lev. 23:5, etc.; *KJV*: “at even” or “in the evening.”). “Between” literally means *separating two objects, times, etc.* This phrase is often translated “between the *two* evenings,” because the Hebrew implies as much. Clearly, Yahweh’s word shows not one, but **two evenings in a day!**

Curiously, these verses showing *two* evenings in the day are usually *interpreted* to mean the period from sundown until dark; thus starting the second evening, *after* the day is over! But such verses as Numbers 9:3 show this period is definitely *in or within one day*: “IN the fourteenth day of this month, between the evenings...” (Num. 9:3).

For example, since the Passover is killed *between* the evenings (Ex. 12:6), ON the fourteenth “at the going down of the sun...” (Deut. 16:6), there must be an evening *before* and *after* sundown. These are the two evenings of the day.

The morning of the day continues until noon (literal Hebrew “the turning of the day” as in Judges 19:8; at the sun’s zenith): “...from morning even until noon...” (I Kin. 18:26; midday: v. 29). Then begins the *first* evening of five Biblical hours lasting until the sun begins setting (takes 3.5 minutes). At sundown the *second* evening starts, continuing until dark.

Jeremiah alludes to the *first evening*: “...the day goeth away, for *the shadows of the evening are stretched out*” (Jer. 6:4). This evening could only be *prior to sunset* while there is direct sunlight. After sundown no shadows are cast for lack of direct light.

The link is now clear between Leviticus 23:32, which mentions *two evenings back-to-back* IN the ninth of the month, and verses using “between-the-evenings,” which also show *two evenings back-to-back in a day* (light period *only*); the Bible interpreting itself using several verses to make plain one not so obvious as Leviticus 23:32.

Given this analysis in which the *Bible* interprets itself, we can now understand *without contradictions*, the “evening-to-evening” period mentioned in Leviticus 23:32 means “first evening-to-second evening.” It runs *from noon of the ninth day of the seventh month until sundown begins that day*. This is a Sabbath (Lit. Heb.: “your Sabbath”), on the ninth day of the seventh month and prior to the Atonements Sabbath starting at dawn of the tenth day of the month (Lev. 23:27). This Pre-atonements “half-festival” is apparently referenced in prophecy (Dan. 12:7; Rev. 12:14).

As startling, perhaps, and outside the mainstream of traditional Sabbath beliefs as this may be, this proof is based on *non-contradictory Biblical facts* independent of the widespread traditional views to the contrary. Tradition means acceptance, not proof.

Our task is to accept Yahweh’s directives and obey,

not make more of it than He does; not try to put words in His mouth. (for more on Lev. 23:32, see *The Scriptural Weekly Sabbath Is NOT From Sunset-to-Sunset*; Editor's note: This book will include an attached addendum sheet including this information about Lev. 23:32 which was understood after the 2005 edition was published.).

Conclusion

The Biblical day is the cornerstone of Yahweh's sacred calendar. Satan and his demons know this. They also know it is impossible to keep the command to rest on the Sabbaths without knowing precisely when the

Scriptural day begins and ends. It is hardly surprising, therefore, to find a centuries-old assault against this foundational principle of Yahweh's Law. Attempts to overthrow Yahweh's Law of the Sabbaths (festivals) are ongoing, and will continue until the Kingdom of Yahweh comes (Dan. 7:25). – ICY

REFERENCES:

- 1 - See *The Scriptural Weekly Sabbath Is NOT From Sunset-to-Sunset*, ICY, pp. 6-8.
- 2 - See *The Scriptural Weekly Sabbath Is NOT From Sunset-to-Sunset*, ICY, pp. 21-23, Appendix I, pp. 46-47.
- 3 - See *The Scriptural Weekly Sabbath Is NOT From Sunset-to-Sunset*, ICY, pp. 17-22.
- 4 - *Complete Word Study Dictionary*, p. 1247.
- 5 - *Complete Word Study Dictionary*, pp. 644-645.
- 6 - See the *Tanakh*, *Green's Interlinear*, etc.

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'Pentecost' continued from page 5

count to Pentecost represent the 50 years of the Jubilee cycle.

The fifty-year Jubilee cycle has a sequence of seven times seven years plus one year. The 49th year of this group is a land Sabbath. The 50th year is also a land Sabbath (Lev. 25:8-12). Thus, this 50-year period ends with two land Sabbaths back-to-back.

Now applied to the Feast of Weeks and Pentecost, the day for a year principal reveals the 50-days equal 50-years. Then the fifty days of the Feast of Weeks plus Pentecost is a "scale model" of the Jubilee cycle. This shows the Pentecost period of 50 days must also end with two Sabbaths back-to-back just like the Jubilee period does!

Pentecost, a Sabbath, follows the weekly Sabbath giving two back-to-back Sabbaths. Pentecost must, therefore, fall on the first day of the week, Sunday.

Objections to a Sunday Pentecost

Some have objected to Pentecost falling on a Sunday, because ancient pagans worshipped their *sol deus* [sun deity] on this day, which is referred to as the venerable day of the Sun.

Because Protestants and Catholics have followed suit in this unscriptural rite, some apparently feel this ancient and modern practice somehow taints the first day of the week.

Some Sabbath-keeping churches in the past had a kind of "superstition" about having Pentecost on a Sunday. Even going so far as to say that no Holy Days would ever fall on a Sunday. One group "kept" Pentecost on Monday for many years.

But there is nothing in Yahweh's Law which precludes His annual Sabbaths falling on a specific day of the week. What is wrong with a first-day-of-the-week Pentecost? Nothing. It is not a departure from His sign of the Sabbaths (Ex. 13:14, Ezk. 20:20), to have a Sunday Holy Day.

The Scriptural fact is that Pentecost falls on the first day of the week. By definition, the *Sabbath* of Pentecost is *the sign*-not the day of the week on which it falls.

The first day of the week is not the "venerable day of the Sun" to Yahweh (nor should it be to Yahweh's servants). It is just a day on which He may place whatever annual Holy Day He pleases. It is giving the *sol deus* far too much importance to say that Yahweh has to tiptoe around Sunday, because modern pagans perform a rite then.

In fact, the first record we have of Yahweh's Spirit moving, being active or descending, was on the first day of creation week (Gen. 1:2-5), i.e. the first day of the week!

If we are looking for a precedent for the day of the activation of Yahweh's Spirit then this would definitely be it. His Spirit moved on the first day of the week, and this indicates its activation would again occur on the first day of the week.

This is exactly what happened on Pentecost, and the Bible shows Pentecost falls on the first day of the week: "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come...there came ...a rushing mighty wind...and they were filled with the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 2:1-2, 4).

Complete Picture of Pentecost

The correct day of the week is vital to observing the true Pentecost. To complete the picture we must also know what time of year this important Feast occurs. An objective look at the Biblical evidence clearly shows Pentecost must occur during the wheat harvest at the time of the summer solstice (Ex. 34: 22), what is translated as the "turn of the year," the tekufah.

The summer solstice is the middle of the Biblical year and falls around June 21 each year. Since Pentecost must also occur on a Sunday, it must be on the Sunday nearest the summer solstice. For more on this vital topic write today for the booklet: *Finding the Scriptural Pentecost: The Forgotten Biblical Method of Finding Pentecost*. – ICY

REFERENCES:

- 1 - See also RSV, Moffatt, Tanakh, New Jerusalem, NAS, etc.
- 2 - Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon, p. 564.
- 3 - BDB Lexicon, p. 466.
- 4 - Unger's Bible Dictionary, pp. 356-357.
- 5 - Unger's, pp. 356-357.

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WHAT ARE THE **REAL** CAUSES OF THE WORLD'S CONTINUING ECONOMIC WOES?

As economic stimulus packages continue to be strategically placed worldwide to avert a total global economic crash, financial woes continue their downward spiral.

Here is a brief look at the present situation. The news is not good.

COLOSSAL JOB LOSSES CONTINUE WORLDWIDE

The AP reports *millions* of migrant workers in China looking for work are finding factories closed. High unemployment rates have sparked protests by workers in Latvia, Chile, Greece, Bulgaria and Indonesia. Following its bankruptcy, labor protests brought down Iceland's government in January, 2009, when the entire cabinet resigned. Workers striking in Great Britain are protesting jobs given to non-British immigrants.

"This is the worst we've had since 1929," said Laurent Wauquiez, France's employment minister. "The thing that is new is that it is global...It is in every country..."⁽¹⁾

Schwartz reports that Peter Dixon, with Commerzbank in London, projects Britain's unemployment rate will rise to 9.5 percent by 2010, up from 6.3 percent now, and Germany's present 7.8 percent could go as high as 10.5 percent.

Joblessness is clearly affecting Taiwan where May exports plunged 42.9 percent versus a year ago, to the lowest in all of Asia. One analysis showed India, whose meteoric rise to global economic prominence in recent years was featured in the hit movie "Slumdog Millionaire," is staggering under 500,000 jobs lost between October and December 2008.

The U.S. economy is still hemorrhaging over a half million jobs a month as private employers chopped 532,000 jobs in May. Though down from April's 545,000 job loss, these slashes in the job market show the economy is tanking more rapidly than many thought.⁽²⁾

To put this in perspective, approximately every three months the equivalent of the entire civilian labor force of the state of Arkansas is being lost! The U.S. has lost a net total of 6.5 million jobs since the recession began in December 2007.

LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE AUTOMOBILE COOLS

In the middle of the global economic storm, U.S. and foreign automakers are having unprecedented losses. General Motors Corporation and Chrysler LLC declared bankruptcy. U.S. Judge Arthur Gonzalez approved the sale of Chrysler LLC to Italian Fiat which was later upheld by the Supreme Court (June 10, 2009).

The economic backbone of the U.S. for at least a century, the auto industry spawned hundreds of auxiliary manufacturers, created hundreds of thousands of high quality jobs and helped win WWI and WWII. Iconic General Motors Corporation, at its peak, was the *third largest economy in the world!* The slogan of the day was "What is good for GM is good for America."

But now, crippling health care costs, which are more than the price of steel per car, coupled with inflated union-driven wages and over-compensated top executives, have stifled GM's and Chrysler's competitiveness and pushed them to the brink.

Ford Motor Company, established in 1903 by Henry Ford—inventor of constant-motion assembly lines—has avoided bankruptcy despite its estimated twenty-six billion in debt.

Automotive News (Autoweek.com), reports the lowest sales so far in 2009 came in April for foreign competitors Nissan North America (down 37.8 percent), and Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A. (tumbled 41.9 percent), compared to Ford and GM drops of 33 percent. U.S. autos sold at a seasonally adjusted annual sales rate of 9.1 million units in February, which is a

According to figures from the American Bankruptcy Institute, overall consumer filings increased by nearly one third from 2007 to reach 1.06 million in 2008.



27-year low. So far this year about 15.8 million cars have been produced worldwide.⁽³⁾

Trying to stave off massive layoffs, French President Nicolas Sarkozy recently agreed to 3 billion euros (\$3.86 billion) in low-interest loans each to PSA Peugeot Citroen and Renault in return for no-layoff guarantees for French workers.⁽⁴⁾

RECORD U.S. GOVERNMENT BAILOUTS IN 2008 CRASH: BILLIONS “EVAPORATE”

Last year the U.S. Congress approved over \$700 billion to help struggling financial institutions such as banks, S & Ls, and insurance giants. About 300 billion dollars were immediately dumped into this sector and disappeared almost without a trace. Literally, many were “laughing all the way to the bank!” In the rush of bailouts, Congress doled out massive chunks of 25 billion dollars to distressed banks right-and-left, without required restructuring and with virtually no government oversight!

Despite this massive infusion of money by the U.S. Government and similar desperation moves by governments globally (Ireland: \$560 billion guarantee to its six largest banks, India \$60 billion into the economy, etc.), world economies have only worsened!

After public outcries that hundreds of billions from the U.S. Treasury had virtually disappeared, Congress finally convened hearings (reported on CSPAN). Those “tongue lashing” hearings were a charade of posturing, laced with idle threats. No prosecutions resulted. Members of the U.S. Congress admitted the “bait-and-switch” scheme [to use one Congressman’s terms] used to hoodwink them was the biggest in history! As these “high-rollers” rode off into the sunset, their saddlebags bulging with billions of taxpayer dollars, a Congressional posse was nowhere to be seen...or heard.

Following this virtual “hands off” policy on many in the financial sector receiving hundreds of billions, GM and Chrysler executives were justifiably mystified by a harsh and inequitable Congress during their public testimonies aired on CSPAN. Congress railed on them piling on regulations and demanding wide-ranging restructuring tied to the requested \$21 billion from the Troubled Asset Relief Program, (TARP money so called). Some felt Congressional hypocrisy had reached an all-time high!



Too much paper money, not backed by silver or gold, chasing too few goods, equals runaway inflation. The average inflation rate of 2008 was 3.85%, which is calculated from the Consumer Price Index which is compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. worldpress.com

WHO LOOTED THE U.S. TREASURY?

Uncle Sam and governments worldwide began “priming the economic pump” last year. As of November, 2008, U.S. mortgage lending giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac had received \$200 billion while the Feds took control of the firms and the \$5 trillion in home loans they back.⁽⁵⁾ AIG (American International Group) got \$152 billion while both GM and Chrysler LLC received \$17 billion from the Bush administration, and asked for another \$21 billion from the present administration.⁽⁶⁾

Eight other giant financial firms, collectively, received hundreds of billions of bailout tax dollars (TARP funds): American Express, Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley and Wells Fargo.⁽⁷⁾

Tracking the whereabouts of the looted billions is

not easy to do. For example, lending firms such as those listed above, operate hundreds of tax havens or “subsidiaries” off-shore in places “...where U.S. companies can pay fewer taxes and help wealthy customers avoid taxes...” shielded by “...strict bank secrecy

and privacy laws...” Sharyl Attkisson reported.⁽⁷⁾ “One favorite among the bailout companies is the Cayman Islands. There’s no income tax, no corporate tax and no capital gains tax. Goldman Sachs has 15 subsidiaries there. Bank of America: 59. Citigroup: 90. But Morgan Stanley beats them all with at least 158 subsidiaries in the Cayman Islands—seven times the number of hotels” she notes.

“...lending firms...operate hundreds of tax havens... off-shore...”

WHAT IS AHEAD?

By the end of 2009, worldwide job losses from the recession which started December 2007 in the United States, are estimated to reach a crippling 50 million.⁽⁸⁾

White House estimates of an unprecedented \$1.8 trillion budget deficit this year, which is more than four times last year's all-time high⁽⁹⁾ have Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke very concerned.

But despite the global economic meltdown, the collapse in 2008 of Bernard Madoff's \$50 billion hedge fund Ponzi scheme [Ascot Partners], businesses folding in record numbers (a projected 300,000 in Japan, Britain, Western Europe and the U.S. for *this year*), at least *one* person believes the worst may be behind us.

Reuters⁽¹⁰⁾ reports that billionaire George Soros, a staunch and generous financial supporter of President Obama's presidential campaign, told the German Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung Daily: "The economic freefall has been stopped, the collapse of the financial system averted. National economic stimulus programs are starting to take effect. The downward dynamic is easing...Asia will be first to find its way out of the crisis, but America is also currently doing that."

The World Economic Outlook (WEO) had been projected by the IMF (International Monetary Fund: www.imf.org) to be an optimistic 3.7 percent increase in world economic output for 2008 over 2007 and 2.2 percent for 2009 over 2008. But in late November 2008 the reality was a 0.2 percent *drop* in 2008 and then a projected 0.8 percent *drop* for 2009! These percentages may seem small, but in real terms they represent *trillions of dollars in debt, lost wealth and joblessness!*

The events of the past year show economy gurus and politicians (Soros, the IMF, etc.) struggling to predict or control economic down-turns on the scale seen over the last months. The collapse caught the brightest on Wall Street and Main Street by surprise.

WHAT ARE THE *REAL* CAUSES? THE SURPRISING ANSWERS!

Theories abound as to the causes of the financial maelstroms ravaging the world's economies. The proverbial "domino effect" of mega-losses, bankruptcies, mortgage defaults and joblessness stagger the imagination. Sifting through the rubble for clues even the experts continue to overlook fundamental root causes. These continued oversights simply set us up for the inevitable next round of colossal losses. But where to find the *real underlying* causes?

Operating as if mankind is above natural law, economists', sociologists' and politicians' analyses

fail in one crucial and fundamental way. They do not understand nor even consider Yahweh's role in the destiny of nations. They totally ignore what this Great Creator has to say about the way to prosperity, peace, and long-term financial stability. As a result, well.... you see what is happening!

From blessings to cursings, from prosperity to diseases and economic scourges, Yahweh says the *causes can be known!* The prophet Daniel tells us, "Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law...therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath written in the *Law of Moses* the servant of Elohim, *because we have sinned against him.*" (Dan. 9:11).

But "Who hath believed our [the prophets'] report...?" (Isa. 53:1), lamented Isaiah.

To the Ivy League and MIT educated movers-and-shakers such quotes are little more than quaint religious babble, far distant from Wall Street. They *know* better!

But who is kidding who? Who and what got us into this mess? Answer: the best and the brightest that academia, parliament, Board Rooms, Wall Street and the Belt Way have to offer. Let us also not forget the man-on-the-street who ignored Yahweh's Law!

Church leaders can seem to do little more than tell their members to give so you can receive.... There is a lot more to it than that.

Even they, looking to turn the widespread financial woes into a tithing wind-fall *from* their members, tell them something like, "You are robbing God; stealing ten percent of your income that belongs to him! That is why all this is happening!" They are referring to, but misrepresenting, Malachi 4:8.

Misusing Malachi's statement is a huge mistake. The Biblical truth is that no one owes Yahweh ten percent of their paycheck. There is no Biblical tithe (required tenth) on money (Write *ICY* for the booklet *Biblical Tithing is NOT on Money*). **Tithes** are owed to Yahweh, BUT *only on agricultural produce* (Lev. 27:30: "...of the land..."). Yahweh also requires **offerings in kind** (money or produce; Deut. 12:6; 16:10, 16; Ezra 7:15-16; 8:25, 28). The prophet Malachi clearly shows *these* are what people rob from Yahweh (Mal. 4:8).

However, we also owe something to the **poor, widows and orphans** (Ex. 23:11; Lev. 23:22; Deut. 15:28-29; John 13:29). Many, in the hardness of their hearts, in order to "justify" not giving to the poor, often use the well worn "Charity begins at home." What usually happens, to their shame, is that it also **ends at home!** We reap what we sow.

Furthermore, we must give at **special times** of Yahweh's choosing. There is a *when* to give. Failure to give at the proper times is equivalent to not giving what is required. Not giving is stealing (Mal. 4:8).

Timing is everything!

These special times include the day of the New Moon (Deut. 12:6; 14:23; Ezk. 46:3; Isa. 66:23), the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Deut. 16:16), the Feast of Weeks (Deut. 16:10, 16), the Feast of Tabernacles (Deut. 16:16), the third year of a seven-year cycle

“Starting in late 2007 a reckoning of financial loss began...”

(Deut. 14:28); (Request, *Observance of the Old Testament Holy Days is Still Required*).

So it really is *not* as simple as give-and-receive. You have to know **what** to give, to **whom** to give it, **AND** the much overlooked essential part of the equation, **WHEN TO GIVE!** For example, “He who...gives to the rich, will only come to want” (Prv. 22:16).

Starting in late 2007 a reckoning of financial loss began taking place...on a massive scale. This reckoning is a penalty for stealing from Yahweh, widows, orphans and the poor. And because we *still*, as nations and individuals, will not heed Yahweh’s directives, our governments are mortgaging our children’s and grandchildren’s future with massive deficit spending [another way of saying that we are spending money we do not have]. This merely delays the inevitable: having to pay the bill...sooner or later.

Those who lost tens of millions in the Bernard Madoff Ponzi-scam, for example, were simply paying for their sins of robbing Yahweh of monetary offerings and stealing from the poor, orphans and widows. Madoff was the “instrument” by which the judgment of Yahweh was carried out. It is hard to imagine a more perfect example of Paul’s statement to the Thessalonians, than the Madoff scheme which duped thousands: “...because they received not the love of the truth...And for this cause [not loving the truth; v. 10] **Yahweh** [“God” *KJV*] **shall send them strong delusion, that they should BELIEVE A LIE**” (II Thes. 2:10-11). Did they ever!

The financial carnage is not over yet.

The devastation to crops from droughts and other weather related crop losses in Australia, America and other parts of the world are *penalties (consequences)* for neglecting to pay Yahweh His tithes of produce and broken Land Sabbaths: “I will make your cities waste...I will bring the *land into desolation...THEN shall the land enjoy her Sabbaths...because it did not rest in your Sabbaths when ye dwelt upon it...*” (Lev. 26:31-32, 34-35)! These are *natural LAWS*, not just whimsical dos and don’ts from an “outdated” Old Testament.

The financial losses, joblessness, weather upsets, droughts, business failures and homelessness are *not imaginary*. They are spelled out in the immense sufferings and anguish of *real people* groping for a way out, searching for those illusive answers.

But Yahweh clearly says that there are *causes for these; PREVENTABLE CAUSES!!* (Read Deut. 28). The reason we taxpayers are being robbed of our hard-earned money via looting of the national Treasuries [“bailouts”], crushing taxation, and inflation is *because of our individual sins!* The politicians and others in positions of power able to influence laws and policies and to *steal* are—as with Madoff, the “sword;” the “grim-reaper” so-to-speak—exacting the brutal punishment for transgressing Yahweh’s Law. But make no mistake about it; these thieves will also pay for their misdeeds.

BUT there are other “hidden” components of these immense global problems; components virtually none sees or suspects. What are they? Yahweh’s cycles. His mostly unseen, but dynamic cycles are built into the fabric of societies (local, national and global). These silent periodic pulses of energy regulate life itself. They are uncanny predictors of what is ahead. Because of their complexity, those who study such things⁽¹¹⁾ do not get but small glimpses of this activity.

If you knew the perfect storm was brewing would you not prepare to ride it out, or to brace for it? When the seasons change, we change with them. Likewise, if you *knew* a huge dip of economic activity was about to occur, precautions would be prudent. This is what financial newsletter writers by the hundreds seek constantly to know! For several years ICY members have known an impending massive economic downturn in 2008 was indicated by Yahweh’s system of cycles. It happened...on schedule.

This is the *other* component that explains how governments, once engulfed in the wave, were helpless to ward it off, throwing every ounce of money and policy at it they could muster, to no avail. Yahweh will not be mocked (Gal. 6:7). So how can disasters be avoided? We do it by obeying *Yahweh’s* laws precisely to the letter. — **ICY**

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